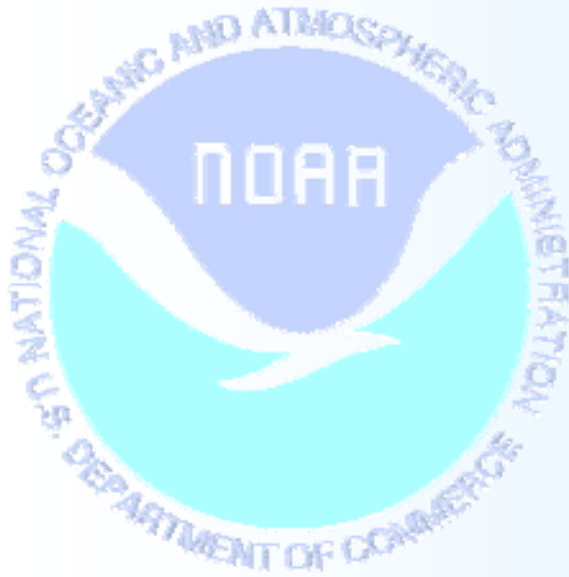


# Overview of the GPA National Programmes of Action (NPA)

**Tool for Integrated Freshwater and  
Coastal Management**



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NOAA/GPA Node Office

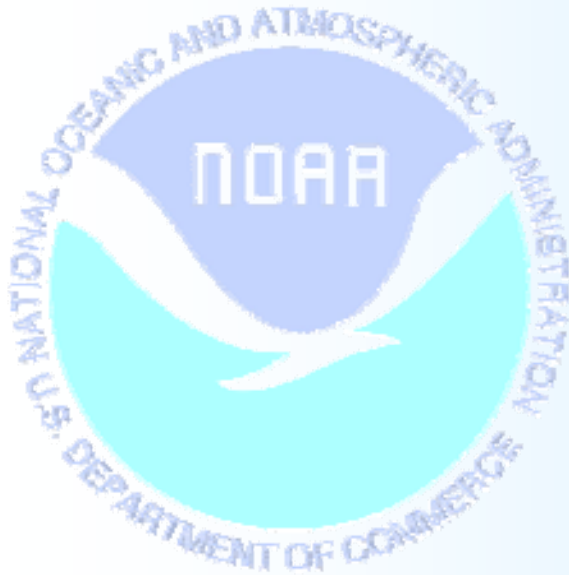


## What is the GPA?

The GPA is a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that allows governments to strengthen the collaboration and coordination of all agencies with mandates relevant to the impact of land-based activities on the marine environment.



Under the GPA, each state is committed to the development and implementation of a National Program of Action (NPA).

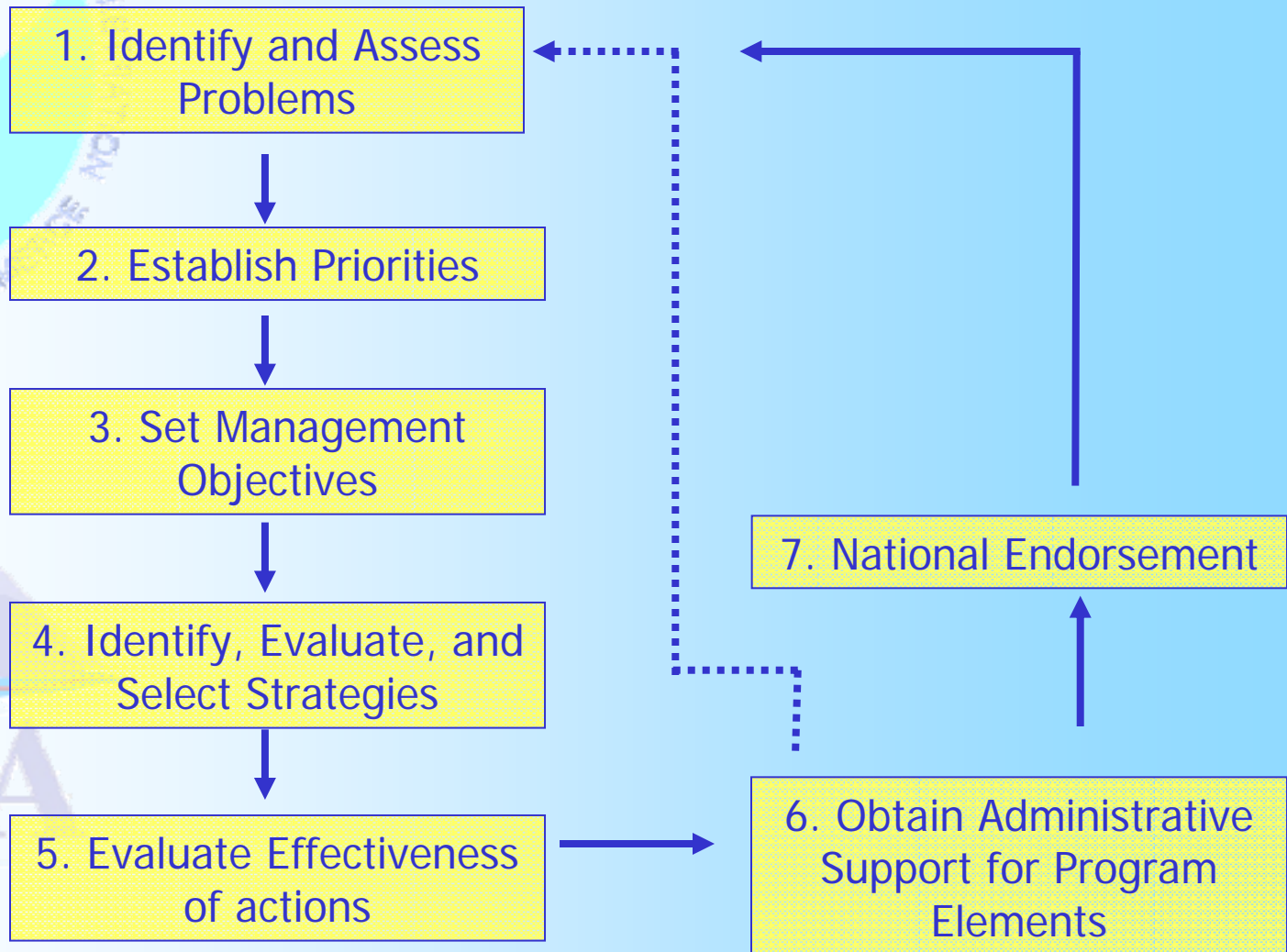


## What is an NPA?

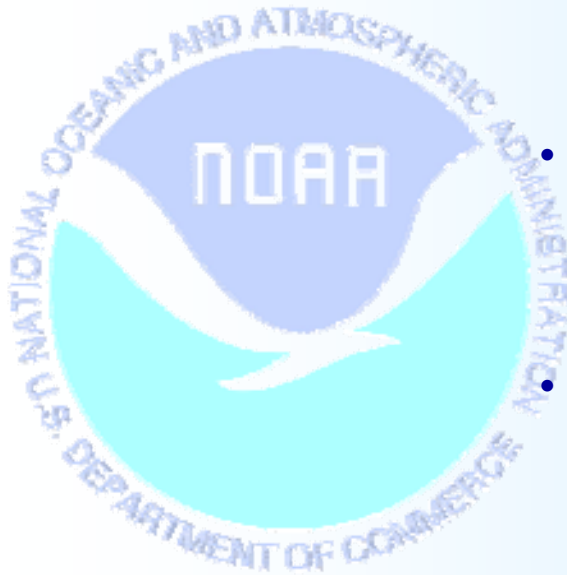
- An integrated management and policy framework (build upon existing national policies and priorities)
- A tool that can assist governments, industry, and local communities in the progressive prioritization, over a period of time, of their sustainable development goals and in the mobilization of political and financial support.



# Steps on an NPA



# Objective of an NPA



- To implement actions to address specific causes of environmental degradation or threats from land-based activities
- To design a flexible mechanism for identifying and addressing priority problems through partnerships and consensus among stakeholders
- To strengthen the public sector's ability to effectively respond to these causes and to ensure the sustainability of the actions and projects undertaken
- To mobilize resources and partners, including the private sector, for implementation of specific projects
- To heighten awareness and understanding of the value, benefits, and vulnerability of strategic coastal and marine environments.



# Phased Approach

The NOAA logo is a circular seal. The outer ring contains the text "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" at the top and "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE" at the bottom. The inner circle features a stylized sun rising over a wave, with the letters "NOAA" in the center.

1

Develop a policy assessment for managing coastal and watershed areas, and a regional/national consultation to establish the stakeholder priorities at the national level or on a specific case study

The GPA logo features a stylized mountain range with a river flowing through a valley. The letters "GPA" are prominently displayed in the foreground.

2

Development of the NPA based on the specific needs for each country, including:

- Integration of NPAs into the existing coastal and watershed management political and institutional Frameworks,
- Identification of management strategies
- Establishment of the necessary institutional structures and operational funding to support the implementation of the NPA





# NOAA Experience in the Wider Caribbean

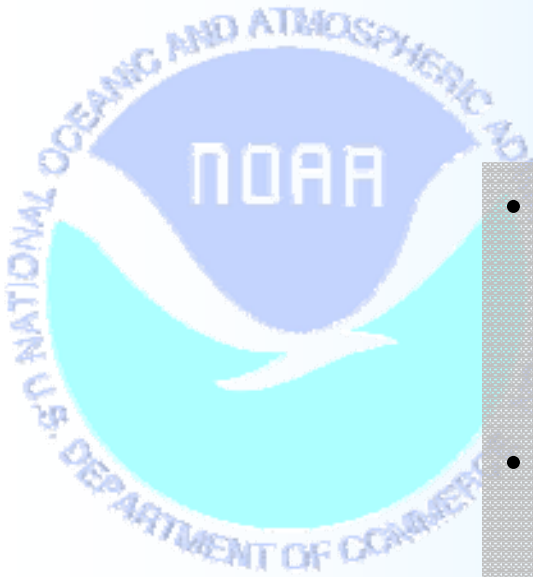
## Identified Issues for Integrating Watershed and Coastal Management

- Lack of integration among national institutions with mandate on natural resources
- Different (and no complementary) resource management mandates at national agencies
- Weak institutional structure and no clear leadership to coordinate the implementation of GPA-related programs
- Lack of political will to deal with the issue (low political priority) at national and regional level
- Lack of an integrated and comprehensive legal framework
- Lack of staff and financial resources



## Initial steps in each country

- Identifying partner governmental agency and authority to lead the process in each country.
- Defining the need for an NPA in each country. This include selecting the scale (national or regional) and the legal/political framework
- Identifying the working groups to carry out the collaborative activities with the node office staff and coordinate the activities among agencies and stakeholders in each country.
- Defining the major stakeholders and agencies to be involved in the process.





## Initial steps in each country (cont.)



- Assessing the legal framework and the role of major institutional actors in managing watershed and coastal resources.
- Developing a working document identifying major issues on land-based sources of pollution and their impacts on coastal environments.
- Organizing a stakeholder meeting to define the goals, objectives, and the principal aspects to be addressed in the NPA.
- Drafting the NPA and submitting it for review